‘ALMOST LIKE A RESURRECTION’

SLEATER-KINNEY ON FINALLY REUNITING. PAGE 10

metro

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Celtics make pair of deadline day deals

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Commute. Downed parts of the Red Line and Green Line were expected to be open Friday. PAGE 02

Back on track

Members of the National Guard helped clear the 20 miles of Red Line tracks between Braintree and Quincy Center on Thursday. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

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MBTA gives timeline of service restoration

Commute. Downed parts of the Red Line and Green Line were expected to be open today.

The MBTA is chipping away at its goal of getting full service back up and running by mid-March after a series of weekly storms dumped eight feet of snow on the region and virtually crippled the T.

Transit officials have released a map showing which areas of the system will be back in business, and it looks like the downed areas of the Red Line and the Green Line will likely be functional by Friday.

The service restoration plan comes on the heels of weeks of frustrated commutes as MBTA customers deal with cancellations, delays, irregular commuter rail schedules and the use of temporary shuttle buses in lieu of rail lines.

MBTA General Manager Beverly Scott, who last week announced she would step down from her post, pointed to the system's antiquated equipment and infrastructure, as well as the historic amount of snow that blanketed train tracks, as the cause of the dysfunction.

Scott said on Monday that it could take as long as a month to restore full service, a plan that Gov. Charlie Baker called "sort of an outer limit."

"We need to be faster than that, but I don't want anyone overpromising and underdelivering, here," Baker said of the timeline.

But this new announcement from the T seems to mean the system is chugging along ahead of schedule — that is, if the agency keeps its word and delivers on its promise.

"If all goes according to plan, we should have all MBTA lines and stations before the end of next week, and that will certainly be good news for all of our loyal customers," MBTA spokesman Joe Pesaturo said.

After that, the T will apply "a laser-like focus on repairing subway and trolley cars that were damaged during the four brutal winter storms," Pesaturo said.

Prison inmates have been put to work digging out the Red Line's snow-covered tracks. The National Guard has worked to clear the tracks on Green Line routes.

"The goals we identified today will hinge on a number of factors, including weather conditions, and while we are making progress on recovering tracks and stations, we are also working hard to get train counts up," Scott said in a statement on Wednesday.

A map of subway service restoration (below) is handy as the MBTA reported more delays along most routes on Wednesday, including at the Orange Line Community College station (top). / MBTA

Quoted

"The MBTA appreciates the patience of its loyal customers as it works to restore service to the levels they expect and deserve."

MBTA statement

MORGAN ROUSSEAU
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Service

- According to the MBTA, Red Line service between JFK/UMass station in Dorchester and North Quincy will likely resume on Friday. The E Line of the Green Line was also expected to be functional Friday.
- By Monday, the Braintree section of the Red Line and the Green Line's Boston College route should reopen.
- Trolley service between Ashmont Station in Dorchester and Mattapan Square is predicted to be back on Feb. 27.

Seriously?

Yes, more snow is coming to a Boston near you

More snow is slated to hit Massachusetts on Saturday evening.

The National Weather Service forecast the small storm to bring a wintry mix of snow, ice, rain and wind, with snowfall predicted overnight into Sunday.

Precipitation on Sunday is expected to turn to freezing rain, the NWS said.

It was unclear whether the severe weather would affect next week's MBTA recover plan. Visit Metro.us for an update Sunday on how the weekend's snow will impact T service.

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T bus stop heats up

A bus stop at Boylston and Claredon streets was transformed into a heated "cabana" as part of a promotion by the Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, complete with a live video feed of a Florida beach. The visitors bureau hopes the installation will serve as a "warm hug" for Bostonians and a hint to head to Fort Lauderdale. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

"I find it Interesting but also it's a little upsetting. It makes me wish I was there and not here."

Palesa Allen, 28, Malden

"I think it's great. Just take a look around. It's awful outside and this gives us something warm to look forward to."

Mackenzie Newell, 20, Allston

Snow holds pitfalls for Gov. Baker

Responsibility. Observers say the pol's performance could come back to haunt him.

Gov. Charlie Baker / GETTY IMAGES

While Boston freezes under a snow deluge of biblical proportions, Gov Charlie Baker is feeling the heat.

Political experts say the snow-induced MBTA imbroglio has the potential to harm pols like the governor if the T continues to be dysfunctional for the next month.

"That's going to wear people down and they're going to be more critical of the government," said Jeffrey Berry, a political science professor at Tufts University.

Typically, said Berry, politicians respond energetically to such catastrophes and try to appear like "they're doing all they can." It's a long way to re-election and it's rare, he said, that someone is damaged irrevocably by a snowstorm. But the T finds itself in a rare mess and there is historical precedence.

In the late 1970s, Chicago's response to a series of blizzards was thought to have sunk Mayor Michael Bilandic's re-election campaign.

Quote

"We supposedly elected a problem solver, not someone who is going to buck responsibility."

Whalen

In 1969, New York City Mayor John Lindsay faced a blizzard of controversy following his response to a Nor'easter.

A WBUR poll released this week showed that 81 percent of the poll's 500 respondents said addressing the T's problems should be a "major priority" for Baker's administration, according to the State House News Service.

According to the poll, 48 percent support the idea of paying more taxes to improve the MBTA and 48 percent don't. Baker, reports the News Service, opposes raising taxes and House Speaker Robert DeLeo recently ruled tax hikes out as part of next year's state budget.

Tom Whalen, a Boston University political historian, said Baker in particular has a lot to lose given his handling of the recent T crisis, which he labeled "disastrous."

"It doesn't inspire confidence," he said. "This is the first real problem he's faced and it's a disaster."

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Cambridge. Cops warn of falling snow after man is buried alive near rink

A close call outside of a Cambridge ice skating rink has raised concerns over the dangers of falling snow and icicles.

A 34-year-old Cambridge resident had to be rescued around 6 p.m. Wednesday after snow fell from the roof of the Simoni Memorial Rink, completely burying him and briefly trapping four others.

Police used snow shovels to remove the man, who was not identified. All five people suffered minor injuries and were treated at local area hospitals, according to Cambridge Police spokesman Jeremy Warnick.

Before the incident, the man was walking on a path with his twin brother, another man and a woman. The other men were briefly buried up to their chests, but were able to free themselves.

Snow removal

Homeowners and building owners who have concerns about excessive loads or the structural integrity of a property, should contact a professional/licensed contractor for assistance.

- Removing snow from a rooftop can be extremely dangerous, so it is best to rely on professionals.

CityofBoston.Gov

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation owns the skating rink.

The incident is a stark reminder of the potentially fatal effects of snow lurking in the gutters and roofs above pedestrians' heads.

"Our concern, not just commercial and residential buildings in Cambridge, but with all buildings across the region, is that something like this could happen again and the outcome could be much worse than what we saw [Wednesday]," Warnick said. "Ensuring that roofs are clear from heavy snow and dangerous icicles is incredibly important during these final weeks of winter."

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Five things you need to know

NSA says Sony attack traced to North Korea after software analysis

The National Security Agency (NSA) identified North Korea as the source of the recent cyberattack on Sony Pictures Entertainment after analyzing the software used in the intrusion, NSA Director Admiral Michael Rogers said.

Speaking to a Canadian security conference, Rogers explained that the discovery was part of the agency's efforts to develop software to counter cyberattacks.

"We ultimately ended up generating the signatures to recognize the activity ... used against Sony," Rogers said. "From the time the malware left North Korea to the time it got to Sony's headquarters in California, it crossed four different commanders' lines or areas in the U.S. construct."

Sony's network was attacked by hackers in November as the company prepared to release "The Interview," a comedy about a fictional plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The attack was followed by online leaks of unreleased movies and emails that caused embarrassment to executives and Hollywood personalities.

North Korea has described the accusation as "groundless slander." Rogers said that cyberthreats are different from physical threats since they travel beyond geographical boundaries. REUTERS

ROGERS
GETTY IMAGES

Jobless claims fall as labor market gains momentum

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell more than expected last week, offering fresh evidence that the labor market was gathering steam.

The labor market also got a boost from Wal-Mart which said it would spend more than $1 billion this year to increase pay for 40 percent of its U.S. workforce. REUTERS

Claims

283K

Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 21,000 to a seasonally adjusted 283,000 for the week ended Feb. 14.

Hazmat team responds to LA courthouse over suspicious letters

A hazardous materials team was sent to a Los Angeles courthouse on Thursday over suspicious letters mailed to court personnel, but no evacuation was ordered and business continued without interruption, officials said.

The hazardous materials team from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident at the downtown courthouse, the department said in a statement. REUTERS

Hospital warns patients of drug-resistant superbug

A Los Angeles hospital has notified patients they were possibly exposed to a drug-resistant bacterial "superbug" during endoscopy procedures that infected seven patients and may have contributed to two deaths.

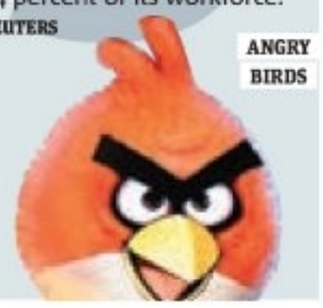
The 179 patients who may have been infected by the carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae are being offered home testing kits that would be analyzed by the University of California, Los Angeles, hospital system, UCLA officials said.

The possible exposures occurred at the UCLA Ronald Reagan Medical Center between October and January. REUTERS

Angry Birds maker to tailor games in China

Finland's Rovio will start tailoring its Angry Birds mobile games to the Chinese market with help from Beijing Kunlun as it aims to step up business in the world's most populous country.

While Rovio has expanded the hugely successful Angry Birds brand into merchandising and licensing business, it has struggled to produce more hit games and recently cut about 110 jobs, representing 14 percent of its workforce. REUTERS



ANGRY BIRDS

Fighting rages in east Ukraine despite bid to revive truce

Hope. Western nations are refusing to give up on a peace deal brokered by France and Germany last week.

Ukrainian soldiers drive tanks along the road leading out of Debaltseve in Artemivsk, Ukraine. / GETTY IMAGES

Fighting raged in eastern Ukraine on Thursday despite European efforts to resurrect a stillborn cease-fire, a day after pro-Russian separatists spurned the truce by forcing thousands of government troops out of a strategic town.

Shelling continued near that town on Thursday, and local officials in government-held territory said rebels had also fired mortar bombs at another town farther south. Kiev fears they are massing for an assault near the major port of Mariupol.

Thousands of weary and demoralized soldiers withdrew from Debaltseve on Wednesday in one of the worst defeats suffered by Kiev during 10 months of fighting in which more than 5,000 people have been killed.

European and U.S. officials have expressed hope that the cease-fire will hold now that the rebels, fighting for territory Russian President Vladimir Putin has called "New Russia," have achieved their immediate goal of taking Debaltseve.

But Reuters correspondents outside the rebel-held town of Vuhlehirsk said artillery shells were still falling on nearby Debaltseve, though with less intensity than earlier this week. REUTERS

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4 Reasons a beagle may not be for you

Best friend. The Westminster Kennel Club's top dog won't suit every pet owner.

The winner of this year's Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show was an adorable four-year-old beagle named Miss P. And like many other people after each year's winner is declared, you might be thinking that this is the breed for you. While owning a dog can be a great decision for your health — besides the regular walks, they lower your cholesterol, make you less likely to be depressed and stave off arthritis — a beagle comes with some unique challenges. Before you succumb to the urge to snatch up a pup to call your own, here are four things to consider.

MATTHEW LEE
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Miss P's breed can be a difficult one for apartment dwellers. / GETTY IMAGES

1 Beagles aren't the most soft-spoken breed

"Beagles are quite vocal," says professor James Serpell of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, before doing his impression of their trademark high-pitched howl. As hounds, beagles were originally bred to lead hunters on a trail and howl so they could be found. Maybe you should reconsider getting a dog that's well-known for its bark — unless, of course, you really hate your neighbors.

2 Beagles are very difficult to train

"Some dogs were selected to work closely with people, and typically those types of breeds are very trainable," like the border collie, Serpell says. "Whereas hounds typically don't really care very much about what the hunter wants; they just do what they do. They just follow the trail and make a lot of noise so people can follow them. We don't really expect them to do tricks." While Miss P earned her top spot partly for obedience, that likely took generations of selective breeding, as well as years of tireless training.

3 Your tiny apartment could be an issue

Confined spaces and limited time outdoors is a bad combination for any dog. "When dogs have more energy than they expend on a daily basis, they find other things to do to occupy themselves, and often those things are not what you want," Serpell warns. Weigh your decision against how much time and attention you're willing to invest beyond dressing up and taking Instagrams of your tiny Miss P clone, who may well get so bored and frustrated that she decides to take out her anger on your new West Elm couch.

4 They're not great with children (especially when they're older)

"Some beagles can be a bit obstinate; they don't like being pushed around," Serpell said frankly. "You do hear quite a lot of stories about grumpy older beagles snapping at kids and things like that, but I wouldn't say it's a uniquely beagle characteristic." So, if you're active, have a good amount of time and patience, relatively spacious real estate and no kids to get possibly nipped, then maybe a beagle is the right breed for you.

Lose the stress. Pplkpr will delete your toxic friends

If a friend is stressing you out, is cutting them out of your life the logical step? Pplkpr thinks so. The smartwatch and app track which friends get your heart rate up — then take action.

Using a Bluetooth monitor and a GPS tracker, Pplkpr (pronounced "people keeper") analyzes your relationships by measuring your heart rate variability and stress levels to detect spikes in your emotions. Over time, the iOS app learns to "auto-manage your social life," blocking or deleting contacts it thinks are bad for your health and scheduling time to hang out with people who make you feel good.

Your needy friends are sapping more than your time. / ISTOCK

The app's Brooklyn-based co-creator, Lauren McCarthy, tells us the inspiration for Pplkpr came from the trend of wearables changing our behavior. "The idea of an algorithm tracking and managing your social life feels creepy, but what if it actually works?" she says. "What if it improves your emotional life?"

There's also a bigger question: Can quantifying our life go too far? "The app is a critical response to trends we see in quantified self, big data and surveillance, but we don't believe any of these things are black and white," she says.

Students at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh took Pplkpr on a test drive. No relationships ended badly because of the app, though there was one hiccup: "One pair of best friends who were using the app got blocked from each other because they were working on a group project that always stressed them out." So computers always don't know what's best for us — yet.

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2
CULTURE

‘A little bit shocking to be a band again’

Interview. Corin Tucker talks about the unlikely reunion of Sleater-Kinney and the band’s new album, “No Cities to Love.”

“It’s [like] experiencing a resurrection,” Tucker says of playing together again. / ALL PHOTOS BY BRIGETTE SIRE

Earlier this month, when Sleater-Kinney took the stage for their first full show in almost a decade, singer and guitarist Corin Tucker felt overwhelmed.

“It’s a very physical thing to do Sleater-Kinney,” she says. The band, which also consists of guitarist and singer Carrie Brownstein and drummer Janet Weiss, went on hiatus in 2005. They’ve spent the past decade focusing on separate projects including, for Brownstein, “Portlandia.”

Oddly enough, the Sleater-Kinney reunion came about because of “Portlandia.” Brownstein was visiting Tucker to show her a clip from the current season that featured her son. The conversation naturally turned to music, and Tucker asked Brownstein, “Do you ever think we’re going to do that again?” We talk to Tucker about the emotional decision to revive the iconic band.

Not your typical day job

How do you talk about Sleater-Kinney to your kids? Have they always known what it has meant to you?

I think that I try to explain to them that it’s my job and that I love doing it, and it’s different from other parents’ jobs. I have to travel for it and that’s hard for a family, but both parents should be able to work and do a career that’s important to them. We’re just trying to make it work for our family.

Before talk of a Sleater-Kinney reunion came about, when you and Carrie would see each other, was there any tension? Why was a reunion never mentioned before?

I think, at the time that we decided to go on hiatus, it was pretty clear that we wanted to do other things. I wanted to have a bigger family and Carrie wanted to try writing comedy. And it just felt like those were big aspirations that were outside the band, and we felt lucky that those things happened the way that they did. It went really well, and we were supportive of each other’s accomplishments. And those are not small endeavors. They take up a lot of time and space in our lives, so I don’t think we would ever do Sleater-Kinney in an offhand or half-assed way.

Was getting the band back together a spontaneous decision?

It was just in the moment. We were talking about music, and we had both played music with other people — I had a band, and Carrie and Janet played in Wild Flag — and honestly, it was just a thought that popped into my mind.

One of the most riveting things to watch onstage with Sleater-Kinney has always been the almost telepathic communication between band members.

Yeah, I mean, there definitely is that chemistry, and I think, just in the four shows that we’ve done, there’s already been a lot of that going on. I think the first show was almost like a little bit shocking to be a band again, in a good way! It definitely felt like we were experiencing a resurrection.

Some of the songs on the album feel like they’re about the three of you as a band. There’s that line in “Surface Envy,” where you sing, “We win, we lose, only together do we break the rules.”

The inspiration for that song was me thinking about how, when we did finally have the conversation of, “OK, we’re going to do this for real and make a whole new record,” that was a really intense moment. It was like, “Wow! Can I jump back into this career that I absolutely love that involves some travel?” And so it was really challenging for me, being a mom, but it’s what I love to do, and I just have to be super assertive about things and really good at planning things. It’s just all of the emotions that came from that conversation went into that song.

Like riding a bike

Was there anything about your muscle memory that surprised you?

There were definitely songs that my hands would remember before my brain would. All of “Dig Me Out” my hands will remember because we played it so many times. But other songs that we did, like “Oh!” that for some reason, which is not that complicated of a song, I had to go back and relearn it.

Keeping it a secret

You began recording in 2012, and recording new music is something that takes up a big space in your mind and heart. I’d imagine it wasn’t easy to stay mum about it.

We weren’t that secretive about it. We would tell people what was going on when asked, and it was a “just between you and me, this is what’s going on” thing, so we told probably about 200 people, including Sub Pop. Everybody there knew for a while what was going on. It’s surprising to me that it didn’t get out more than it did.

PAT HEALY
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pat.healy@metro.us

The Breakthrough: Carlos Pratts

Interview. Get to know the young star of "McFarland, USA."

Carlos Pratts, second from the left, plays a Hispanic high schooler who begins training with Kevin Costner to become a cross-country racer in the new film "McFarland, USA." / GETTY IMAGES

The performance that inspired him to become an actor:
"Friday Night Lights." I played football in high school, and the high school story was the exact same. I remember finding acting and seeing that movie and the way that it made me feel — I just knew that this was what I wanted to do for the rest of my life. And I'm from Texas, so it really hit home.

Perk of being famous he's looking forward to most:
Getting my mom the dresses that she wants.

Who was his first celebrity crush:
There were so many. I think they all just kind of came at once. I don't know if I can pick just one. Um … Topanga from "Boy Meets World."

Biggest audition blunder:
I'm not going to say any names, but there's a show and they were really interested in me for a pretty good-sized role. The day before I was going to read for the producers, I'm in the car and this lady rear-ends me. I get out of the car and, at least in my mind, it was, "Are you OK?" with a smiley face. Apparently I came off like the Kraken. It wasn't a very friendly exchange, and we'll just leave it at that. The next day, I get into the audition, and she's sitting there, right in the room. She's one of the producers. And she goes, "I know you." Needless to say, I didn't get the part.

Last thing he Googled:
I'm not going to lie, "McFarland, USA." I wanted to know what people are saying. [Laughs]

Last book he read:
I have to admit it's been awhile since I read a book, but probably the last thing I read was "The Artist's Way."

Favorite person to follow on Instagram or Twitter:
My 9-year-old little brother, Luis Benjamin Pratts. Follow him, get him some followers.

Ideal Saturday night:
Obviously, there's so many ways to go about it, but I love if I can just go to the gym, play some basketball with my roommates, and then after that, maybe see a movie or just have a chill night playing "Mario Kart." I'm a "Mario Kart" freak. I'm a master with the green shells. And I'm not going to lie, I'm a "Friends" fiend, so I'll throw on some Netflix. I've already seen all the seasons of "Friends" on Netflix probably twice, and it's only been a month and a half.

Dream role:
Honestly, this is a long shot, but I'd love to be a superhero one day. As a matter of fact, what I first wanted to be when I was growing up was a Ninja Turtle. I thought that was a real profession — that I could do it, that I could survive in the sewers. But a superhero would be awesome one day.

NED EHRBAR
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Sequel. 'Hot Tub Time Machine 2' trades in laziness, gay panic jokes

Review

'Hot Tub Time Machine 2'

Director: Steve Pink

Stars: Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson

Rating: R

The boys of "Hot Tub Time Machine" (minus a mysteriously AWOL John Cusack) head to the future to find who shot Rob Corddry in the nuts. Wait, why would they go to the future to solve a murder that already happened?

The lowdown: "Hot Tub 2" is a completely different beast than the first, and yet it's the same kind of lazy. Granted, the indifference is part of the joke. And it's not an unfunny one; at its best, the series exploits its inability to give a crap for absurdity, with rules made to be ignored and broken. But it's not often at its best, falling back on lots of ad-libbing and gay panic jokes. In fact, there's an entire, quite long set piece revolving around gay panic, in which it's posited that the worst thing that could ever happen to a dude is having to pork another dude. It's not even making fun of this; the joke is watching our heroes cry and freak out over gay sex. Thing is, "Hot Tub" can be creative: The end credits sequence actually takes advantage of time travel, and Adam Scott, as Cusack's son from the future, brings silly pep to a film that yawns its way to an end. **MP**

Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry and Clark Duke are 10 years older in "Hot Tub Time Machine 2." / PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Who and what should win this year's Academy Awards

We hope "The Grand Budapest Hotel" wins Best Picture at the Oscars, airing Sunday at 7 p.m. on ABC. / FOX SPOTLIGHT

Trophies. The Oscars are this Sunday. But rather than waste your time with predictions we'll get wrong, here's something slightly more useful: what we'd pick, if anyone had asked us.

Picture

'The Grand Budapest Hotel'

Wes Anderson's latest is the kind of carefully crafted, completely realized vision that should be edging out heavy-hitters like "Boyhood" and "Birdman."

Director

Wes Anderson

Given that he's created his own style of filmmaking, it's frankly incredible Anderson hasn't won a directing Oscar before "The Grand Budapest Hotel."

Actor

Bradley Cooper

Hype demands Michael Keaton or Eddie Redmayne win this, but Bradley Cooper's steely and quietly anguished turn in "American Sniper" was one of the reasons Clint Eastwood's war drama was more complicated than its fans and detractors claim.

Actress

Julianne Moore

For once, every prognosticator seems to be in agreement, because no performance this year came close to this year's inevitable winner, Julianne Moore, for "Still Alice."

Supporting Actress

Keira Knightley

Let's hear it for Keira Knightley, who took what could have been a dull, throwaway supporting role in the war drama "The Imitation Game" and quietly ran away with the film, outshining even co-star and fellow nominee Benedict Cumberbatch.

JACK ENGLISH

And the nominees were ...

If you've already caught up with this year's Oscar-nominated films, you can watch older movies featuring this year's feted actors. Here's what's on Netflix Instant:

'Election'

Reese Witherspoon may not win for "Wild," but she was totally snubbed for her beyond-electric turn as a pep monster angling for her high school's class presidency — a performance both villainous and oddly touching.

'Citizen Ruth'

"Election" director Alexander Payne also led "Wild" co-star Laura Dern to one of her best turns in his abortion comedy, in which she's a white-trash woman whose accidental pregnancy is seized upon by both sides of the issue.

'The Brothers Bloom'

Mark Ruffalo is the normal guy in "Foxcatcher," but here he gets to cut loose as the goofier of con artist siblings, alongside Adrien Brody.

Supporting Actor

J.K. Simmons

He may be only slightly less intimidating than his "Oz" Neo-Nazi, but J.K. Simmons' jazz instructor was still an intimidating portrait of the artist as sociopath.

Original screenplay

'The Grand Budapest Hotel'

Anderson's films are constructed top-to-bottom, and the riots of pink and spot-on performances in "The Grand Budapest Hotel" are nothing without the solid foundation of its script.

Adapted screenplay

'Inherent Vice'

If only because "Inherent Vice" isn't nominated in more categories, Paul Thomas Anderson should take this one. But he also did the impossible in bringing a Thomas Pynchon novel to the screen.

NED EHRBAR AND MATT PRIGGE

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Rugged and glam

Reviews

Ralph Lauren

The prairie babes who opened Ralph Lauren's show Thursday sauntered down the runway in lean, cozy knits, feathered skirts, faux fur vests and sweeping ponchos perfect for life on the frontier. But even pioneer women have parties to attend, and the show took a sharp turn trading in its soft textures and sandy colors for slick big-city-ready eveningwear. The black masculine suits (complete with ties!) and slinky, held-by-a-thread gowns got the job done, but our hearts were still back on the range.
TINA CHADHA

Marchesa

The St. Regis hotel's opulent chandeliers and ornate gold-framed paintings provided the perfect setting for Georgina Chapman and Keren Craig's seductive take on 1920s glamour. Sultry, flapper-inspired evening wear — including skin-baring dresses embellished with feathers, crystals, beads and swingy silk fringe — felt more modern and decadent than any poofy gown. Not a dress gal? Sexy, spliced tops paired with skinny black trousers provided the perfect alternative. We can't wait to see which one shows up on the Oscars red carpet. TC

Bibhu Mohapatra

Indian-American designer Bibhu Mohapatra sent out a beautiful collection of trim day dresses, rich furs and intricate ball gowns. The clothes had a sense of poetry, found in the slight drape detail in his fit-like-a-glove shifts or in the one lone Yves Klein blue stripe running down the side of a silver mink coat. Known for his eveningwear, Mohapatra has really stepped up his daywear game in the past few seasons, too: A paprika cutaway jacket worn with loose turmeric trousers, in particular, had swagger.
RAQUEL LANERI

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Anna Sui

Fashion's flower child had a decidedly less hippie-dippy muse this fall: vikings. But warrior shearlings and shaggy parkas proved a natural, cozy fit with Anna Sui's signature exuberantly patterned dresses and boho vibe. The knit Valkyrie hat, worn with a "celestial silver" sequined dress and faux fur cape that closed the show, was a nice, whimsical touch. RL

Nanette Lepore

As Bikini Kill's "Rebel Girl" blared over the speakers, models stomped down the runway in military-meets-boho get-ups: sailor pants, wool capes and riotously printed frocks, all worn with glittery platforms for a David Bowie vibe. It was a fun, grrrl-powered show that had everyone in the audience — including the designer's pal Steve Buscemi — singing along. RL

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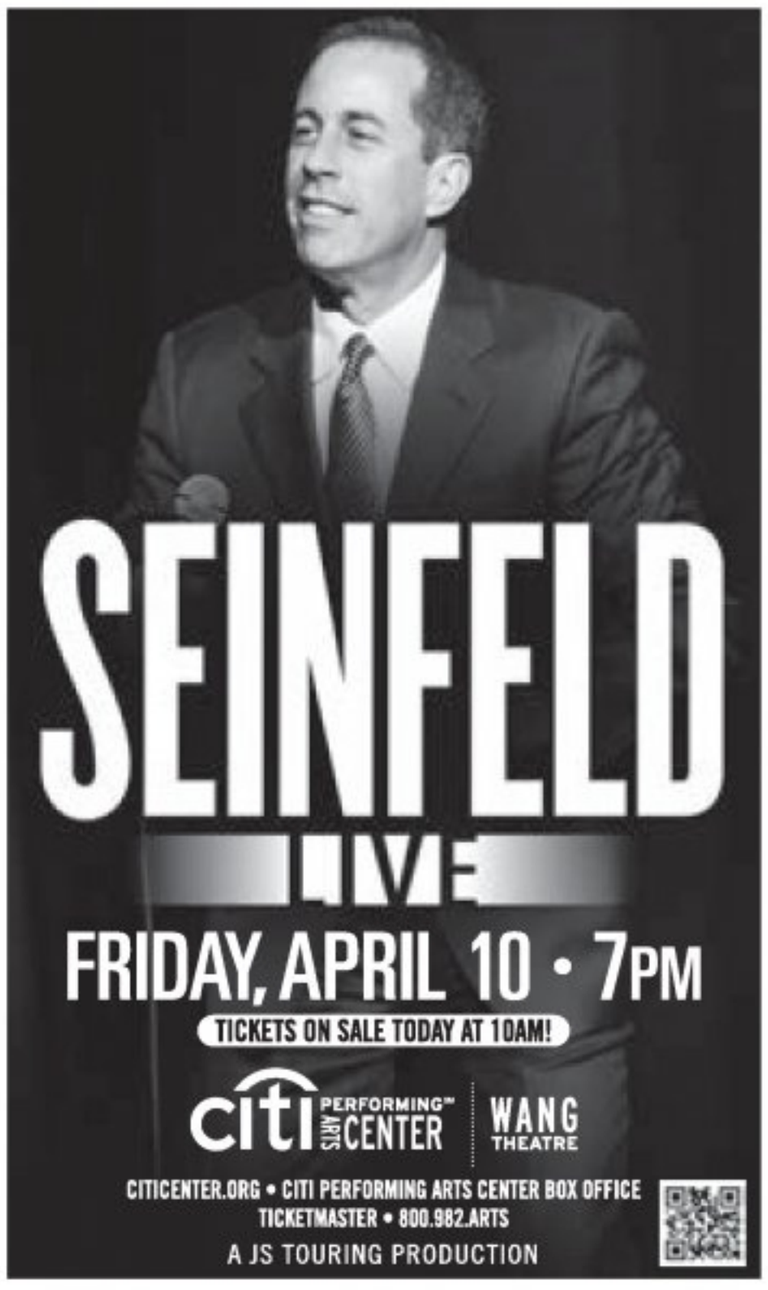

BOOKS

PROVIDED

Christine McKinley

Saturday, 7 p.m., Porter Square Books, 25 White St., Cambridge, Free, 617-491-2220, www.portersquarebooks.com
Christine McKinley, mechanical engineer and host of the History Channel show "Brad Meltzer's Decoded," will discuss her book "Physics for Rock Stars: Making the Laws of Physics Work for You," which gets into the physics of a variety of scenarios from rock 'n' roll microphone tossing to escaping from a car that's careened into a pond — without ruining your clothes!

MUSIC

Lorelei "On the Rocks"

**Friday, 7 p.m.
Sloane Merrill Gallery
75 Charles St., Boston
$30, 800-838-3006
www.brownpapertickets.com**
Enjoy an evening of chamber music from the Lorelei Ensemble, plus food and drinks, all at a Beacon Hill art gallery. The concert, described as a "post-Valentine's" set, features 16th century madrigals from Italy and England, including works by Palestrina, Willaert, Monte, Weelkes and Morley, performed by Lorelei members Sonja Tengblad, Emily Culler and Clare McNamara.

Enchantment Under The Sea Prom Night

**Sunday, 8 p.m.
The Sinclair
52 Church St., Cambridge
$15, 21+, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com**
As everyone surely recalls, "Enchantment Under the Sea" was the theme of the 1950s school dance in "Back to the Future." But this dance night,

THEATER

JAKE SCALTRETO, COURTESY OF FROST ICE BAR

Terra Nova

Friday through February 28, Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal St., Watertown, $20-$25, contact@flatearththeatre.com, flatearth.ticketleap.com
Flat Earth Theater presents a story that could only have happened on a round earth: that of British explorer Robert Falcon Scott, leader a team of men trying to be the first to get to the South Pole. By the time they make it there, they discover they've been licked by the Norwegians, and it's the way back that proves the greatest challenge.

a benefit for ZUMIX, is going to have a more 1980s kick, at least as long as the Prince tribute band LoVeSeXy, who'll be playing the whole of "Purple Rain," has the stage. DJ ABD also plays.

MOVIES

'The Pueblo Incident'

Friday, 8 p.m.
Somerville Theater
55 Davis Sq., Somerville
$8, 617-625-5700
www.channel0.blogspot.com
With the occasionally comical, mostly frightening stories coming out of North Korea lately, it seems like as good a time as any for Channel Zero to present this 1973 TV dramatization of the 1968 capture of the USS Pueblo by the North Koreans, who subjected their prisoners to horrific treatment. It stars Hal Holbrook, best known for his long-running Mark Twain impersonation.

THEATER

'Talk to Strangers'

Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
Oberon
2 Arrow St., Cambridge
$25-$35, 617-547-8300
www.americanrepertorytheater.org
Liars and Believers, with help from the Boston Circus Guild, presents this multimedia show with live music, visual art, video, aerial performance, dance, poetry and more, all set around the theme of forging personal connections in a era when our supposedly advanced tools of communication seem only to have driven us further into our own private universes. How do we get back out? You'll have to see the show to get some answers.

COMEDY

Rob Delaney

Friday, 10 p.m.
The Wilbur Theater
246 Tremont St., Boston
$25, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com
"I am going to tour very hard all over America," Rob Delaney promises, "and I won't stop until I'm done/hungry. Got it?" The official title of the Boston native's current tour is simply "Meat," which is appropriately brief for the fast-rising comedian, who's been cited much more than once as one of the funniest people on Twitter. His standup act will probably be a bit longer than Twitter's standard 140 characters, however.

MATTHEW DINARO

ART

PROVIDED

Sol LeWitt: Structures and Related Works on Paper, 1968-2005

Through March 14
Barbara Krakow Gallery, 10 Newbury St., Boston
Free, 617-262-4490
www.barbarakrakowgallery.com
This exhibition features a collection of geometric images and sculptures by the late artist Sol LeWitt. Actually, he preferred the term "structure" over "sculpture," which makes sense since these creations, based on the basic cube shape, feel more like reduction (or, as you might see it, magnification) of sculpture to its essentials. As cubes go, they have a striking power.

SPONSORED

'Mother Hicks'

EMERSON STAGE presents

By Suzan Zeder / Directed by Megan Sandberg-Zakian.
Saturday, 2 p.m., 7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m.
ParamountMainStage
559 Washington St.
$10-20. 617-824-8000.
Three strangers find hope for themselves through each other during the dark days of the Great Depression. "Mother Hicks" (part 1 of the Ware Trilogy) is an evocative, family-friendly show for all ages filled with poetry and live music. It will be performed in American Sign Language as well as English.

SPONSORED

BMOP

'Blizzard Voices'

Thursday, March 5, 8 p.m.
Jordan Hall at NEC
Pre-concert talk at 7 p.m.
FREE (reserved seating)
781-324-0396
bmop.org
The Boston Modern Orchestra Project's final concert of the season offers drama and virtuosity with a host of local celebrities and new faces. Paul Moravec's compelling oratorio "The Blizzard Voices," a tribute to pioneer spirit with texts by former Poet Laureate Ted Kooser, features some of the city's most beloved singers. John Harbison's Concerto for Bass Viol puts the spotlight on the lively low-register sound of bassist Edwin Barker, while Composition Competition winner Stephanie Ann Boyd's Ondine gives voice to a water sprite in a unique orchestral fantasia. Gil Rose will conduct.

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20
Your warmth and compassion will be an asset to a benevolent or charitable cause. Assisting elderly people or ailing family members will intensify your sympathetic nature.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20
An opportunity to make money or raise your earning potential is within reach. Keep track of your expenditures and leave enough leeway in your budget for an unexpected home repair.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21
Be a participant. Once you get involved in community affairs, you will be surprised at the number of interesting people you meet.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20
If you have been exaggerating or spreading rumors, you will be accused of meddling. Keep busy doing something that is beneficial to you.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22
Get involved in things that you enjoy doing. You will meet someone who will prompt you to think differently or will spark your imagination. A chance to travel will lead to experience.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22
Mixing financial and emotional issues can be costly. If your generosity is eating into your savings account, curb your spending. It makes more sense to offer suggestions.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22
A partnership will be on shaky ground if you don't make an effort to share your thoughts. Schedule time to discuss your plans for the future or to re-establish responsibilities.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22
Impress your superiors by putting in more effort. Prove how seriously you take your position by presenting your ideas for a more efficient workplace.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Cultural differences and philosophies will intrigue you. There is plenty of knowledge available on the Internet. Don't limit yourself to the same old routines.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Don't get upset about things you cannot change. Traffic woes or unanticipated weather changes are unpleasant, but emotional outbursts will not help you get along with others or mend a negative situation.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Someone you consider a casual acquaintance may have a more romantic motive in mind. Be honest about your feelings. If handled properly, you will end up with a lifelong friendship.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Financial gains lie ahead. An opportunity to change your profession should be considered. A minor health ailment should be checked out. EUGENIA LAST

Letters to the editor

Not the meat of Lent

Re: 'Bible doesn't advocate for veganism' (Metro, Feb. 18) The line that hurt me to the core: "There are abundant medical and ethical reasons to forgo meat without consulting inconsistent, inaccurate collection of Bronze Age folk tales." What does that the above statement have to do with Lent? According to my pastor, Lent is a period of time when you need to look inward. Do you say one thing and really mean something else? It has nothing to do with what you eat or don't eat. This is a time for inward contemplation. It is a time to get closer to God.
SHERALYN TINSLEY, VIA EMAIL

For the wrong reasons

Those anxious to hear Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu speak need to remember a couple things. First, there is no indication Iran is anywhere near weaponizing its nuclear research, never mind producing a working weapon. Second, Netanyahu or his office have already leaked details of the negotiations to the Israeli media, distorting key elements in doing so and undermining the sensitive diplomacy involved. Third, the GOP broke both diplomatic protocol and possibly federal law issuing this invitation in the first place. Finally, Speaker John Boehner has publicly admitted this was a purely political move by the GOP to impede the president. Anyone expecting anything resembling serious commentary from this speech is a fool (or a Republican).
JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA EMAIL

MBTA cronies

The MBTA is a long-standing institution founded on the principle of cronyism. It should not take 30 days for this transit system to get back on track. All it should take is a few telephone calls and the appropriate handshakes to get the system rolling once again!
DAN COGLIANO, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us
Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

	7				2			
		9				6		7
	4	6		1	5			
	2		4	8	6	3		
7				5				9
		1	9	3	7		2	
			8	6		4	3	
3		8				7		
			1				8	

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7			5			8	1	
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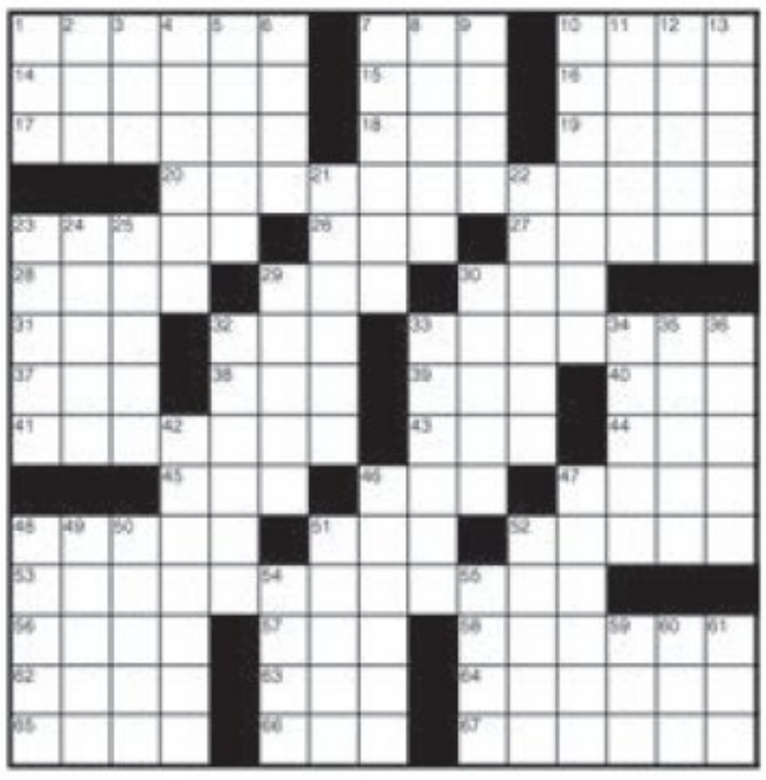
	4			9	6			
6		2	3				9	1

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword



Across
1 Summer wear
7 Chart shape
10 Night crawler
14 Baltimore baseballer
15 Electric bridge
16 Urn homophone
17 Weaken
18 Bleacher shout
19 "Faint heart — won ..."
20 Stifling yawns (3 wds.)
23 Tangles
26 Woodland creature
27 Squander
28 Tire supports
29 Sewing kit item
30 Quarry
31 Guitar, slangily
32 Wolf, say
33 Secures a horse
37 Quick turn
38 Strive to win
39 Gallery display
40 Iota
41 Kind of sale (hyph.)
43 Monkey with
44 Dog days in Dijon
45 Niagara Falls prov.
46 Neutral color
47 Mouse target?
48 Curly coifs
51 Soccer —
52 Survey course
53 Creepy feelings
56 Bank feature
57 Actor – Wallach
58 Eaves hanger
62 Sheik colleague
63 Anderson Cooper's network
64 Strut
65 Arms the alarm
66 Toga-party order
67 Lure

Down
1 Install a lawn
2 Jackie's second
3 None
4 Questions
5 Low voices
6 Suggestive look
7 Inmate's hope
8 Burnt up
9 Nymph who pined away
10 Under
11 Locales
12 Sluggish
13 Close-mouthed
21 Fixed a manuscript
22 Singer Conway —
23 Cartoon cat
24 Undeliverable mail
25 Alpha opposite
29 Coat for a house
30 Evita or Juan
32 All the same (2 wds.)
33 Teahouse mat
34 Bounce
35 Generator part
36 Pool member of yore
42 Lodgers
46 Bearer's task
47 Stand firm
48 Cathedral parts
49 Physique
50 Update, as a factory
51 Kanga and Roo creator
52 Quechua speaker
54 Bottle top
55 Seine tributary
59 T'ai — ch'uan
60 Insect resin
61 Storm center

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Yesterday's answer

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DEFLATE-GATE AN NFL ISSUE, NOT PATS ISSUE, FROM START

Opinion

DANNY PICARD

DANNYPICARD

"The Danny Picard Show" airs every weekday at DannyPicard.com. Danny can also be heard on WEEI 93.7 FM and seen on CSNNE.

In addition to Robert Kraft, Bill Belichick and Tom Brady, Roger Goodell should probably apologize to Patriots' locker room attendant Jim McNally. / GETTY IMAGES

Poor Jim McNally, Patriots locker room attendant-turned-NFL villain overnight.

The guy was probably enjoying a relaxing championship offseason when he looked up at the TV to see his own face highlighted in an "Outside the Lines" report on ESPN. He tried to introduce an illegal special-teams football to an official during the AFC championship game, said Kelly Naqi in her seemingly irresponsible report.

It comes at a time where some — those who either lack common sense, or those who have it out for the Patriots — are still trying to "find answers" to Deflate-gate. To them, any piece of information from the sidelines of the AFC championship is important news, or is relevant to the "Deflate-gate" investigation.

As Naqi found out, that is not the case.

It's one thing to see a locker-room attendant handing a football to an official that was not properly marked with a "K," like all special-teams footballs are. It's another thing to know the actual context of that exchange.

And in this report, context was nonexistent.

A day later, Adam Schefter reported that an NFL official actually handed that football to McNally, because one of the special-teams balls was missing. So McNally then did his job, and handed the ball off to the official — Greg Yette — who was in charge of putting those special-teams balls in play.

Context.

It infuriates me to no end that the original report was made without any details of the exchange between McNally and Yette. And also, if this report was a knee-jerk reaction to Deflate-gate — which it was — then how about some information on the condition of that football which McNally gave to Yette?

If this was such a scheme to sneak an illegal football into a game, then please, tell us about that football. Sure, it wasn't marked with a "K" like the rest of the special-teams balls, but was there anything illegal about it? Yet another major piece of information that was missing in the original report.

Without details of the football, and without any context into McNally's exchange with Yette, this should have never even been reported. McNally's name should have never been known. His face should have never been highlighted in the background of the Patriots' sideline, as if he's some type of criminal dressed in Patriots apparel, on the run for a monstrous act.

This story is about the league. It's about the NFL. It's about how officials don't actually give a damn about a football's PSI level before a game. It's about NFL sideline employees who steal footballs and sell them for their own profit, instead of sending them to charities like they're supposed to.

From Day 1, this should have been reported as a league issue. Nothing more, nothing less.

Instead, it's turned a Patriots locker-room attendant into a villain.

And if anyone deserves an apology, it's Jim McNally.

NBA

C's land Thomas, deal away Prince

There was buzz Wednesday and at the start of Thursday's NBA trade deadline day that the Celtics were poised to land star guard Goran Dragic from the Phoenix Suns.

Celtics president of basketball ops Danny Ainge did swing a deal with his front office disciple, Suns GM Ryan McDonough, right before the 3 p.m. deadline, but it wasn't Dragic. Instead, the C's landed 5-foot-9 point guard Isaiah Thomas in exchange for Marcus Thornton and the Cleveland Cavaliers' 2016 first-round pick.

The Celtics are set to go small - really small - in their backcourt with the addition of 5-foot-9 inch Isaiah Thomas. / GETTY IMAGES

Ainge has long been a fan of Thomas, dating back to the tiny guard's days at the University of Washington.

Thomas packs a scoring punch for a point guard, as he is averaging 15.2 points per game this season and averaged 20.3 points per game in 2013-14 when he was a member of the Sacramento Kings. He also averaged a career-high 6.3 assists per game last season.

The Celtics also dealt away Tayshaun Prince to Detroit, according to multiple reports. Boston receives Jonas Jerebko and Luigi Datome from the Pistons.

Thomas signed a four-year, $27 million contract with the Suns this past summer.

Thomas could be in uniform for the Celtics' first game in nine days Friday night, when they take on the Kings in Sacramento (10 p.m., CSNNE).

Several major deals went down across the league, including Dragic and his brother Zoran being traded to Miami in exchange for Danny Granger, Justin Hamilton and two first-round picks. The NBA's reigning rookie of the year, Michael Carter-Williams, was also traded. Carter-Williams, Miles Plumlee and Tyler Ennis landed in Milwaukee as part of a three-team trade. MATT BURKE

3 SPORTS

NBA

KG goes home to Minnesota

A broken-in Kevin Garnett began his career in Minnesota, then was shipped to Brooklyn to win a title. While he earned playoff victories in both locations, the legacy of "KG" has always been centered in Minnesota, or, as Garnett long referred to it, as "Sota." "The Big Ticket" will now return to the place where his Hall of Fame NBA career began after he waived his no-trade clause Thursday. The Nets obtained forward Thaddeus Young in a deadline day swap, according to Yahoo. Young is averaging 14.3 points and 5.1 rebounds per game this season. The 6-foot-8 forward was originally drafted by Nets GM Billy King when King was in charge of the Sixers.

Visit Metro.us to see where Marcus Mariota falls in our latest NFL mock draft.

B's cling to hope for turnaround

NHL. The Bruins are searching for signs of life as a brutal road trip comes to a close.

Tuukka Rask and the Bruins have had a rough go of it as of late. / GETTY IMAGES

With less than two weeks to go before the NHL trade deadline (March 2), not to mention only 25 games remaining in the 2014-15 regular season, the Bruins picked a bad time to play their worst hockey. So far, Boston's five-game road trip to Canada and the Midwest has been nothing short of a disaster as they got blown out by Vancouver, 5-2, last Friday, blew a three-goal lead and lost on a fluky goal in OT to Calgary, 4-3, on Monday and dropped the longest shootout in Bruins history, 4-3, to the Oilers on Wednesday after rallying from two goals down.

Boston is riding a season-worst five-game losing streak (0-3-2) and given their current state, it's hard to picture them getting points in either St. Louis (37-16-4) on Friday (8 p.m., NESN) or Chicago (35-18-5) on Sunday (3 p.m, NBC) before finally returning home.

After not scoring in 12 rounds of a shootout and losing to the second-worst team in the NHL (Edmonton), it has reached the point where you wonder what head coach Claude Julien or goaltender Tuukka Rask (who has appeared in 15 straight games) can even say anymore. "We're not going to stand here and think that we're doing OK," said Julien after the loss to the Oilers. "We're underachieving right now and our game's got to get better. I still feel we've got the group in there to make it better, so it's up to us to take charge."

It's easy to forget at this moment but this is the same team that won the Eastern Conference in 2013 and had the most points in the NHL last season to capture the President's Trophy before losing in the second round of the playoffs to Montreal. The Tyler Seguin trade has been a well-documented flop, not re-signing Jarome Iginla (who would be their leading goal scorer this season) and dealing Johnny Boychuk right before this campaign certainly didn't help matters. NHL reporter Darren Dreger mentioned on NBCSN during intermission of Wednesday's Red Wings-Blackhawks game that if Boston misses the playoffs (they are in eighth place in the East), it could cost GM Peter Chiarelli and Julien their respective jobs.

Everyone is clamoring for the Bruins to make a trade, but with just under $2 million of cap space remaining, there really aren't many blockbuster options.

By the numbers

1

The Bruins have just one win in the month of February, a 2-1 victory over the Islanders back on Feb. 7. The B's fell in a shootout to Edmonton on Wednesday and in overtime to the Flames on Monday.

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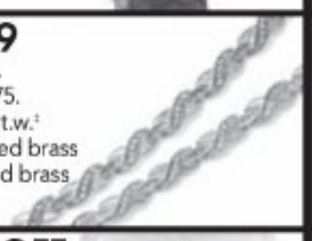

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